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THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating dry eye disease comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a lantibiotic in a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said lantibiotic is duramycin.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering involves topical administration of said compound.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said topical administration is via a carrier vehicle selected from a group consisting of drops of liquid, liquid washes, gels, ointments, sprays and liposomes.

5. The method according to claim 3, wherein said topical administration comprises infusion of said compound to said ocular surface via a device selected from a group consisting of a pump-catheter system, a continuous or selective release device and a contact lens.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering is systemic administration of said compound.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said systemic administration involves administration of a liquid/liquid suspension of said compound via nose drops or nasal spray, or administration of a nebulized liquid to oral or nasopharyngeal airways of said subject, such that a therapeutically effective amount of said compound contacts lacrimal tissues of said subject via systemic absorption and circulation.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said systemic administration of said compound is accomplished by administering an oral form of said compound,

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such that a therapeutically effective amount of said compound contacts lacrimal tissues of said subject via systemic absorption and circulation.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said systemic administration
5 involves administration of an injectable form of said compound, such that a therapeutically effective amount of said compound contacts lacrimal tissues of said subject via systemic absorption and circulation.

10. The method according to claim 6, wherein said systemic administration
10 involves administration of a suppository form of said compound, such that a therapeutically effective amount of said compound contacts lacrimal tissues of said subject via systemic absorption and circulation.

11. The method according to claim 6, wherein said systemic administration
15 involves administration of an intra-operative instillation of a gel, cream, powder, foam, crystals, liposomes, spray or liquid suspension form of said compound, such that a therapeutically effective amount of said compound contacts the lacrimal tissues of said subject via systemic absorption and circulation.